

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 5-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 11 are amended, claims 2 and 4 are cancelled, and claims 16-19 are added. In particular, the features of claims 2 and 4 have been incorporated into claim 1 and the features of claim 4 have been incorporated into claim 11.

Claims 4, 14 and 15 were objected to based on various informalities. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11, which incorporate the features of claim 4, have been amended to change "the time" to "a time." Applicants assert that the use of "a usage" is grammatically correct. Applicants also assert that claims 14 and 15 use proper antecedent basis. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Lewis et al. (Lewis), U.S. Patent No. 6,290,343. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lewis fails to disclose an inkjet printer, wherein ink is pressurized by a pressurized air generating device at least by a time when a vacuum of the ink is terminated in a usage of an ink vacuum device, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 11.

Lewis discloses an air pressure system that provides and controls the pressurization of ink in the ink cartridges during a printing operation (col. 13, lines 16-18). Lewis concludes by stating that the air pressure system and related components provide a very predictable and secure control of the ink pressure whether applied to normal printing operations, or to unusual events such as priming, air purging of the ink tubes and the like, as illustrated in Fig. 23 (col. 19, lines 34-39). Lewis' disclosure with regard to other operations is limited to listing a particular operation and an approximate air pressure for that operation. In other words, Lewis fails to provide any disclosure as to how the printheads are primed.

Lewis thus fails to provide any disclosure with regard to pressurizing the ink at least by a time when a vacuum of the ink is terminated in a usage of the ink vacuum device, as

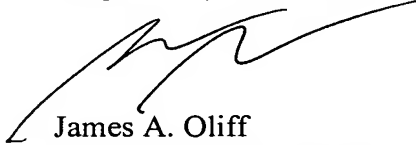
recited in claims 1 and 11, or performing a wiping operation after the vacuum of the ink is terminated and while the ink is pressurized in the usage of the ink vacuum device, as recited in claims 16 and 17.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 28, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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